

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 116

Introduced by Senator Mendoza

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Arambula, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

March 1, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 116—Relative to adult education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 116, as amended, Mendoza. Adult Education Week.

This bill would proclaim the week of April 3, 2016, to April 9, 2016, inclusive, as Adult Education Week, and would honor the teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education programs statewide for their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The week of April 3, 2016, to April 9, 2016,
- 2 inclusive, is observed as “Adult Education Week,” recognizing
- 3 the unique accomplishments of California adult schools; and

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature acknowledges that adult schools
2 that are provided by K–12 school districts offer quality programs
3 to meet the ever-changing economic and workforce development
4 and lifelong learning needs of our diverse state; and

5 WHEREAS, The first recorded adult education class in
6 California was held in the basement of St. Mary’s Cathedral in
7 San Francisco in 1856. The class was authorized by the San
8 Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian,
9 and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer
10 teacher for the class, later became a Superintendent of Public
11 Instruction; and

12 WHEREAS, Adult schools, which work in collaboration with
13 community centers and libraries, are a primary community resource
14 for the teaching and instruction of adult literacy; and

15 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide a way for adults to complete
16 secondary-education studies and obtain a high school diploma or
17 its equivalent at their own pace and to prepare for and transition
18 to postsecondary education and career training; and

19 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide critical opportunities to
20 bring recent dropouts back to school; and

21 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide instruction to those in the
22 state who need English as a second language and citizenship
23 courses and play a key role in immigrant integration and the path
24 to United States citizenship, which is important for our diverse
25 community during this time of immigration reform; and

26 WHEREAS, Adult schools, which recognize that we must focus
27 on educating parents in order to break the cycle of illiteracy and
28 to support educational equity for all our children, provide programs
29 in family literacy at elementary schools in conjunction with
30 community-based organizations; and

31 WHEREAS, Historically, adult schools have been called on to
32 assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and
33 economic issues, such as providing job training programs during
34 the Great Depression and training for skilled and underskilled
35 workers during World War II; and

36 WHEREAS, Adult schools provide short-term career and
37 technical training for adults seeking changes or enhancements in
38 their career pathways; and

1 WHEREAS, Adult schools offer varied, market-based education
2 programs to enhance the lifelong learning opportunities in the
3 state; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2015, the Legislature and Governor Edmund
5 G. Brown, Jr. saved California adult schools from the brink of
6 closure by establishing the Adult Education Block Grant Program
7 that is helping to restore access and programming for adult learners
8 with planning and collaboration on a regional scale; now, therefore,
9 be it

10 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the week of
12 April 3, 2016, to April 9, 2016, inclusive, as Adult Education
13 Week, and that teachers, administrators, classified staff, and
14 students of adult education programs statewide be honored for
15 their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
17 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.